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longer part traces very convincingly the effect of the wild, reckless sailor life upon a brave, strong, and uncorrupted youth like Salve, and emphasizes as the redeeming feature of his character, even after it has taken a very unfavorable turn, the one strong passion of his soul, — his love for Elizabeth, — which gives him a certain dignity in his own as in the reader's eyes amid his corrupt and lawless companions. In the latter part of the tale Salve has reached the goal of his wishes : he is married to Elizabeth. But he is tormented by a secret suspicion that he has not been her first choice ; that she had contented herself with him only because her early admirer, the naval lieutenant, Beck, in the end had turned a cold shoulder on her. And this suspicion is the more terrible, because he is all the time conscious that he loves her to distraction. And so the cloud continues growing blacker and thicker from year to year, until at length it bursts over their heads, and when it has discharged its burden of wrath, it vanishes and the sun breaks forth once more.

"The Pilot and his Wife" is certainly a very valuable addition to Scandinavian literature ; and still we are not sure but that the author touched his highest point in "The Seer," — a tale which will long echo in the memories of those who had the good fortune to read it.

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10. — *Oriental and Linguistic Studies*. Second Series. *The East and the West ; Religion and Mythology ; Orthography and Phonology ; Hindu Astronomy*. By WILLIAM DWIGHT WHITNEY, Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in Yale College. New York : Scribner, Armstrong, & Co. 1874. 8vo. pp. xi, 421.

THIS new volume of Professor Whitney's collected essays, promised conditionally in the Preface to the former series, will be welcomed first of all as evidence of the success with which that volume has met. Of the verdict of scholars upon it there was never any question ; and if any doubt existed whether these subjects, by a clear and forcible presentation, without any sacrifice of scientific accuracy, could be made to interest a larger public, that doubt is now happily removed.

In the present selection all repetition of the subjects treated in the former volume has been avoided. Essays on English and general phonology take the place there occupied by discussions of linguistic theories. One essay of the latter class, however, which has appeared in the interval, "Darwinism and Language," in the *North American Review* for July, 1874, we hope has been omitted here only to find a place at an early day in a third volume of these *Studies*. Four of

the more important essays in the present volume are new or rewritten ; the others are reprinted without important change.

The first three essays, the subjects of which are, "The British in India," "China and the Chinese," "China and the West," are admirable specimens of historical writing ; and if Professor Whitney could be spared from more indispensable work, we should beg for more of them.

The reviews of Müller's "Chips from a German Workshop," Cox's "Aryan Mythology," Alford's "Queen's English," and Bell's "Visible Speech," are reprinted from the pages of the *North American*, and do not require further notice here. The review of Müller has been extended by a notice of the third volume of "Chips," and of his lectures "On the Science of Religion."

The question, "How shall we Spell?" is answered in the seventh essay as students of language with hardly an exception answer it, but we do not remember ever to have seen the case of the phonetists so happily and strongly put. The advantages claimed for our so-called "historic" spelling are shown to be illusory, or, worse, positive disadvantages. It is further shown that it violates the idea of alphabetic writing, and is a return toward the less perfect methods out of which this was developed ; that a phonetic reform, instead of obscuring etymologies, would smooth the path of the etymologist, since changes of pronunciation proceed according to ascertained laws, while our orthography had already been subjected to the most arbitrary and irregular treatment, and had gone astray after false analogies before this idol of conservatism was set up ; that, instead of hastening the decay of the language, this reform would have a strong influence to unite and keep united the varieties of pronunciation which now spring up and shelter themselves under our loosely fitting orthography. The chief argument, however, remains the economic one, that our present system involves such a sad waste of labor. Professor Whitney, nevertheless, does not share the faith of those who look for the speedy coming of the reform. No doubt his more serious estimate of the resistance to be overcome is nearer the truth than theirs ; but in this, as in all reforms, it is the first step that costs. He will pardon us for reminding him that only a few years ago it seemed wellnigh impossible that a new or improved version of the Bible could ever take the place of our common version. Now the idea at least has become familiar to us, and the difficulties are no longer formidable. When the public finds, as we have no doubt it will, that one of the twin supports of our republican institutions can be remodelled without danger to the state, let us hope that the spelling-book also will be taken in hand.

The eighth essay, on "The Elements of English Pronunciation," which is here published for the first time, is especially interesting and valuable, and in two ways. In the first place, the analysis which Professor Whitney gives of his own pronunciation, carefully marking any deviations from the prevailing local pronunciation of New England, is intended as a contribution to the comparative study of English dialectic pronunciation, which is now assuming much importance. At the same time it serves equally well, in all essential points, as a general analysis of English sounds, and we shall risk nothing in saying that no better outline of the subject can be found. It is not, of course, his object, as it is that of Mr. Ellis in his great work on "Early English Pronunciation," to give the history of each sound from the Anglo-Saxon period down, — his purpose is more general; but the whole arrangement and description of the sounds is at once admirably clear and thoroughly scientific. In some difficult points, the *h* sound for example, his analysis seems to us the most satisfactory yet offered. Additional interest is given to this essay by an examination of a number of passages selected from representative English works to determine the relative frequency of occurrence of the several sounds. The results are tabulated in a manner showing the percentage for each sound and for each class of sounds.

The ninth essay, on "The Relation of Vowel and Consonant," puts finally to rest the vexed question of the correct definition of these two elements, and incidentally of the syllable also. He shows that from the openest vowel to the closest mute there is a continuous series, without decided break, of gradually narrowing positions of the vocal organs; and that, while the extremes have always a fixed character, the middle positions may, according to circumstances, be either vowels or consonants. And it is precisely this antithesis of opener and closer sounds, as they are grouped together to form words, which produces the syllabic effect with which the sound falls upon the ear.

Of the two essays which close the volume, "On the Accent in Sanskrit," and "On the Lunar Zodiac of India, Arabia, and China," the first is a contribution to the general theory and history of Indo-European accent; the other gives a new and connected exposition of the author's views on subjects which have engaged much of his attention, first in connection with the translation of the *Sūrya-Siddhānta*, afterward with reference to the opposing views of Biot and Weber.